

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the recognition of the patentable subject matter in the present application. Independent claims 59, 159 and 191 were rejected over the prior art. Claims 60, 63, 64, 66, 160, 163, 192, 195-197 and 199 were indicated to recite allowable subject matter.

Claim 59 has been amended to include the limitation of dependent claim 66 indicated to recite allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 59.

Applicants hereby add new claims 311 and 312 which include the limitations of independent claim 59 and respective dependent claims 60 and 63. New claims 311 and 312 are believed to be allowable in view of the indication that dependent claims 60 and 63 recited allowable subject matter.

Claim 159 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 162 and 163. Claim 159 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication that claim 163 recited allowable subject matter.

Applicants hereby add new claim 313 which includes the limitations of previously pending claim 159 and dependent claim 160. New claim 313 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication that previous dependent claim 160 recited allowable subject matter.

Claim 191 has been amended to include the limitations of previous dependent claims 194 and 195. Claim 191 is believed to be allowable in view of the indication that claim 195 recited allowable subject matter.

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Applicants hereby add new claims 314-316 which include the limitations of independent claim 191 and respective dependent claims 192, 197 and 199. New claims 314-316 are believed to be allowable in view of the indication that previous dependent claims 192, 197 and 199 recited allowable subject matter.

No amendment made herein was made for patentability unless expressly stated therein.

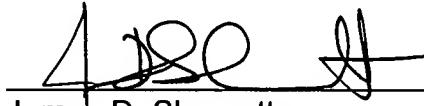
Applicants submit herewith copies of Forms PTO-1449 which were timely submitted. Applicants respectfully request initialization of the references on the Form PTO-1449 which accompanied the IDS filed April 23, 2001 and the foreign reference AL corresponding to Australian reference AU9870343 submitted in an IDS filed December 27, 2000.

Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned if the Examiner believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time during normal business hours (Pacific Time Zone).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6/4/01

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PB



Application Serial No. 09/322,666
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Inventor William A. Fuglevand et al.
Assignee Avista Laboratories, Inc.
Group Art Unit 1745
Examiner S. Kalafut
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Title: Fuel Cell Power Systems and Methods of Controlling a Fuel Cell Power System

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE ACCOMPANYING
RESPONSE TO MAY 1, 2001 OFFICE ACTION

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

9. (Amended) The fuel cell power system according to claim 8 1 wherein the fuel cells are individually configured to be physically removable.

10. (Amended) The fuel cell power system according to claim 8 1 wherein the fuel cells are individually configured to be electrically bypassed.

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59. (Amended) A fuel cell power system comprising:
a plurality of terminals;
at least one fuel cell electrically coupled with the terminals and
configured to convert chemical energy into electricity;
a power supply comprising a battery; and
a control system configured to receive electricity from the battery and to
at least one of control and monitor at least one operation of the at least one
fuel cell; and
charge circuitry configured to selectively charge the battery responsive to
control from the control system.

64. (Amended) The fuel cell power system according to claim 59
wherein the control circuitry is configured to monitor an electrical condition of
the battery and to control the charge circuitry to charge the battery responsive
to the monitoring of the electrical condition of the battery.

67. (Amended) The fuel cell power system according to claim 59
further comprising an operator interface and the control system is configured
to control the operator interface to indicate the at least one operational
condition operation.

159. (Amended) A method of controlling a fuel cell power system comprising:

providing ~~at least one fuel cell~~ a plurality of fuel cells configured to convert chemical energy into electricity;

providing a first terminal coupled with ~~the~~ at least one of the fuel cells;

providing a second terminal coupled with ~~the~~ at least one of the fuel cell cells;

selectively bleeding a connection coupled with ~~the~~ at least one of the fuel cell cells to purge matter from the at least one fuel cell coupled with the connection; and

controlling the bleeding using a control system; and
deactivating at least one of the fuel cells.

164. (Amended) The method according to claim 159 further comprising providing electricity to a load coupled with the terminals with the at least one fuel cell deactivated.

191. (Amended) A method of controlling a fuel cell power system comprising:

providing ~~at least one fuel cell~~ a plurality of fuel cells configured to convert chemical energy into electricity;

providing a first terminal coupled with ~~the~~ at least one fuel cell;

providing a second terminal coupled with ~~the~~ at least one fuel cell;

supplying electricity to a control system using a power supply comprising a battery; and

monitoring at least one operation of ~~the~~ at least one of the fuel cell cells using the control system; and

deactivating at least one of the fuel cells.

196. (Amended) The method according to claim 195 191 further comprising providing electricity to a load coupled with the terminals with the at least one fuel cell deactivated.